and domestic investment. Before any permission for opening any new retail store is given, it should study and analyse the economic and traffic impacts of the store, may be, by a University or economic or environmental institute of repute. The expenditure of the same should be borne by these companies and not by the Government and any proposed store, which has the potential to eliminate the local community from retail sector, or can increase the traffic by more than five percent, should not be allowed to open. (para 5.11)

9. The Committee, therefore, recommend that there is a need for setting up of a Retail Regulatory Authority, to look into the problems and act as a whistle blower, in case of anti competitive behaviour and abuse of dominance. Urban planning, zoning laws and environmental laws in urban areas should be used to limit the multiplication of malls and corporate retailers, by creating transparent criteria for licences, that are linked to the density of population and the stage of existing competition in retail in the zone. The regulatory mechanism should be strengthened and be made more democratic, by including the representatives of farmers also. (para 5.13)

10. The Committee felt that the entry of FDI in book publishing would directly affect the domestic industry, not only in respect of price, but also in the context of the published material, which could be detrimental to the national interests. The Department should ensure that the foreign publishers, in the garb of promoting their literature, do not impact the taste and aesthetic values of Indian readers. (para 5.14)

11. The Committee feel that diverting the agricultural land may not merely lead to reduction in production or income to farmers, it may affect the social and cultural life of the farmers, agricultural labourers and others, connected with the agricultural activities. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Government should come out with adequate safeguards to prevent diversion of agricultural land for setting up of malls, etc. (para 5.15)

12. The need of the hour was to put into place strict regulations on the entry of big malls, *viz*. size of a mall, location of a mall from kirana shops, parking facilities, adherence to environmental norms, labour laws, etc., to ensure that cartelization does not take place. It may also be ensured that these big organised retail brings latest technologies, which could be absorbed here, at the same time ensuring large scale unemployment, particularly in the unorganized retail sector, does not take place. A National Shopping Mall Regulation Act could also be enacted to regulate the entire retail sector, both in fiscal and social aspects. (para 5.16)

13. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Government should formulate a model central law after due consultation with the State Governments and concerned stake holders. (para 5.17)

SEZs operating in the Country

1187. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are over 590 Special Economic Zones in the country;

(b) State-wise break-up of the SEZs approved in the last four years; and

(c) how many of them are in operation and what is Government's decision on the non-operating SEZs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) In addition to the Seven Central Government SEZs and 12 State/Private Sector SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZ Act, 2005, formal approval have been accorded to 578 proposals out of which 323 SEZs have been notified.

(b) State-wise break-up of approved SEZs is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) A total of 91 SEZs are operational. While issuing the Letter of Approval, Developers are given three years time to implement the project. The Development Commissioner and Approval Committee continuously monitor the implementation and provide necessary facilitation towards the operationalization of SEZs.

Statement

State-wise Distribution of approved Special Economic Zones

State	Formal approvals	In-principle approvals	Notified SEZs
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	103	4	68
Chandigarh	2		2
Chattisgarh	1	2	
Delhi	1		
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4		
Goa	7		3
Gujarat	50	11	27
Haryana	46	17	30
Himachal Pradesh		3	
Jharkhand	1		1
Karnataka	52	9	27
Kerala	24	0	11
Madhya Pradesh	14	6	5
Maharashtra	111	36	55
Nagaland	2		
Orissa	10	3	6
Pondicherry	1	1	

1	2	3	4
Punjab	10	7	2
Rajasthan	8	11	7
Tamil Nadu	69	18	50
Uttar Pradesh	34	5	16
Uttarakhand	3	-	2
West Bengal	25	13	11
GRAND TOTAL	578	146	323

Entry of corporate houses and MNCs in the retail sector

1188. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether big corporate houses and MNCs have entered the retail sector in a big way in our country;

(b) if so, whether this has led to an adverse impact on the small vendors in the unorganised sector and it will result in unemployment due to slide down of indigenous retail traders; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Government had instituted a study on the subject "Impact of organized retailing on the unorganised sector" through the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). Main findings of the ICRIER study are given in the statement. [Refer to Statement appended to the answer to USQ 1177 Part (c) and (d)]. As per extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is not allowed in Retail Trade except in Retail Trade of Single Brand products where FDI upto 51% is permitted with prior Government approval. Retail is a labour intensive sector and is the second largest employer after agriculture. Government is fully committed to securing the legitimate interests of all stakeholders engaged in the retail business. Government also fully recognises the need to ensure that small retailers are not adversely affected by the growing organised retail and that there is no adverse effect on employment.

Impact of organised retailing on unorganised retailing

1189. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the findings and recommendations of Indian Council for Research on International Economical Relations and National Council of Applied Economic Research regarding 'impact of organised retailing on unorganised retail trade' including small retailers and venders;

(b) the follow-up action taken by Government;